

## JUDICIAL BRANCH OUTREACH

**Recommendations 25;26:** Actively educate citizens about the Judicial Branch.

- The Judicial Branch formally launched a Speakers Bureau in June 2007 urging community organizations, schools and other groups to invite judges and court administrators to speak to their members about the work of the courts. Pamphlets about the Speakers Bureau, which included speaker requests forms, were mailed to about 200 organizations statewide.
- In May, Associate Supreme Court Justice Gary E. Hicks, his two law clerks, Beth Kula and Keri Noonan, and Jason Surdukowski, law clerk to Senior Associate Justice Linda S. Dalianis, met with teachers brought together by the New Hampshire Alliance for Civic Engagement to develop resources for high school teachers about state government, including the judicial branch. The court representatives will assist these teachers in developing curriculum about the judicial system and the state Constitution. Outlines prepared by the clerks, including references to decision of the Supreme Court that were of particular relevance to the state and federal constitutions and other fundamental legal concepts, were prepared for the teachers.

The project was launched by the Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College with a grant from the national "Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools" a coalition of advocates, teachers and organizations dedicated to promoting civic learning in America's schools (Source: campaign website, [www.civicmissionofschoools.org](http://www.civicmissionofschoools.org)).

- The FY 2008-09 Judicial Branch budget includes funds for a part-time web coordinator who will assist the Communications Office with design and upkeep of the Judicial Branch website, a key tool in public outreach and education about the court system
- Judicial Branch Communications Director Laura Kiernan met with Concord teacher Susan Robichaud M. Ed. in June 2007 to continue development of a grant proposal to create an interactive curriculum plan, including a DVD, that would focus on how the court system works. The new curriculum would target fourth graders (and their families) as part of the statewide study of New Hampshire History and Government that is an annual component of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade public school curriculum. Ms. Robichaud, with support from the NH

Supreme Court Society, is seeking funding for the project, which would make the DVDs, and accompanying lesson plans, available free of charge to New Hampshire public schools.